

LINCOLN-LANCASTER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Board of Health
August 18, 2020

I. ROLL CALL

The special meeting of the Board of Health was called to order at 5:30 PM by James Michael Bowers at the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department. Members Present: James Michael Bowers, Dustin Loy, Tom Randa, Jasmine Kingsley, Stacie Bleicher, Stephanie Jarrett, Sean Flowerday, Katie Garcia, Jacqueline Miller, Rick Tast (ex-officio), Jennifer Holloway (ex-officio) and Adelle Burk (ex-officio).

Staff Present: Pat Lopez, Charlotte Burke, Steve Beal, David Humm, Scott Holmes, Raju Kakarlapudi, Jesse Davy, and Angel Edwards.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Bowers asked if there were any corrections to the Agenda.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Miller to approve the agenda as printed. Second by Mr. Flowerday. Motion carried by a 9-0 roll call vote.

III. PUBLIC SESSION

IV. SPECIAL BUSINESS (Action Items)

A. Approval of the Appointment of Pat D. Lopez, RN, MSN as the Health Director

Mayor Leirion Gaylor-Baird spoke to the Board of Health in support of the appointment of Pat D. Lopez as the Health Director and thanked her for her service to the community. The Mayor explained that Pat came out of semi-retirement to fill the role of Director after Shavonna Lausterer lost her battle with cancer. The City has benefited from Pat's leadership.

Rick Tast spoke to the Board of Health about the series of events that lead to the appointment of Pat Lopez to the Director's position. In Fall of 2017, Shavonna Lausterer began her role as the Health Director and soon after was diagnosed with cancer and a year later it was discovered that the cancer had spread. In the Spring of 2019, Pat was asked to assist with the Director activities as Interim. The Department lost Shavonna Lausterer in June of 2019. Pat then agreed to stay on as Interim until a new Director was hired. A comprehensive search was conducted and three finalists were chosen. Since a decision could not be made Pat, agreed to

stay on as Interim until that position could be filled. In February of 2020 COVID-19 started to circulate and became a pandemic. As a result, a second search for a Health Director was not initiated and Ms. Lopez remained in the role of Interim Health Director.

Testimony in support of the appointment of Pat Lopez to the Health Director was provided by:

- Joan Anderson, the Executive Director for Lancaster County Medical Society.
- Heath Boddy, the President and CEO of the Nebraska Health Care Association.
- Zoe Olson, the Executive Director of the Nebraska Restaurant Association.
- Mike Zellany, Chief of Staff to the University of Nebraska Lincoln Chancellor Ronnie Green.
- Wendy Rau, Supervisor of Health Services for Lincoln Public Schools.
- Tom Randa, President of the Culture Center Coalition and Board of Health Member.
- Stacie Bleicher, MD, Medical Director of The Child Advocacy Center and Board of Health Member.

No opposing testimony was presented.

Motion: Dr. Miller made a motion that the Board approve the appointment of Patricia D. Lopez, RN, MSN as the Health Director for the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department. The motion was seconded by Dr. Bleicher. Motion carried 9-0 by a roll call vote.

V. CURRENT BUSINESS (Information Item)

A. COVID-19 Update

- Event Plan Applications for outdoor gatherings is available on-line.
- More COVID testing will be available with shorter turn-around times.
- PPE storage location is being moved.

- Grant Application through The National Association of City County Health Officials for Long Term Care is being filed.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Meeting – September 8, 2020 at 5:00 PM.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Moved by Dr. Loy that the meeting adjourn. Second by Dr. Miller. Motion carried by a 9-0 roll call vote. The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Angel Edwards
Recording Secretary

Katie Garcia, DDS
Vice President